



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING



ISMAEL AHMED  
DIRECTOR

May 21, 2008

The Honorable Bill Hardiman, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS  
Michigan State Senate  
State Capitol  
Lansing Michigan 48933

The Honorable Dudley Spade, Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS  
Michigan House of Representatives  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Hardiman and Representative Spade:

Section 568(2) of 2007 Public Act 131 provides specific appropriations and adds staff for child welfare improvements; section 568(3) requires a quarterly report.

The fiscal year 2008 local office staffing allocation added 100 Title IV-E eligibility and 138 permanency planning positions. The new worker positions are being filled by current, experienced adoption, children's protective services (CPS) and foster care (FC) staff. These staff however need to remain on their current caseloads to provide ongoing services to families and children until new hires complete training and replace them. Local offices have identified 28 current staff to fill the Title IV-E vacancies and six staff for the permanency planning specialists positions.

There are another 230 applicants who have passed the interview process and are awaiting completion of background and reference checks, drug screening, and fingerprinting before they can be certified as eligible for appointment to these current vacancies. This new hiring pool exceeds the number of total vacancies and would be available to bring onboard within about two weeks.

- Title IV-E Specialists will focus on accurate and timely initial and redetermination of eligibility for federal Title IV-E funding and other federal funding sources such as SSI and Medicaid. The goal is to maximize all available federal funding through active pursuit of eligibility verification. This work includes supporting relative licensing to increase Title IV-E eligible placements.
- The permanency planning specialists (PPS) will work with two groups of children/youth who have been in foster care more than 12 months: 1) those awaiting reunification with their families and 2) those who have had termination of parental rights and are awaiting a permanent placement such as adoption.

These two new staffing categories each provide specialized services that support the overall case services plan but they do not carry a caseload. The ongoing CPS and FC worker remains responsible for overall case planning and management.

Hon. Bill Hardiman  
Hon. Dudley Spade  
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If you have any questions, please contact Terry Salacina, acting deputy director field operations, at 373-3570.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ismael Ahmed". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Ismael" and last name "Ahmed" clearly distinguishable.

Ismael Ahmed

c: Senate and House Appropriations Committees  
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies  
Senate and House Policy Offices  
State Budget Director